--- “Series of 1883” - 50 Cigars - Blue ---

Judging by the John McKay Report, the catalogue should list the blue fifty cigar “Series of 1883” strips as follows:

***--- lithographed* - three beavers *with foliage* - 405 x 22 mm ---**

RG-320(L)† - 50 cigars, blue, perf 12, on horizontal mesh wove, with 4 mm. red controls
RG-322(L) - 50 cigars, blue, perf 12, on horizontal mesh wove, with 5 mm. red controls

***--- lithographed* - a single beaver *without foliage* - 402 x 22 mm ---**

RG-331(L) - 50 cigars, blue, *coarse roulette*, on horizontal mesh wove, with 5 mm. red controls

***--- recess printed* by hand press - a single beaver *without foliage* - 402 x 22 mm ---**

RG-333 - 50 cigars, blue, *coarse roulette*, on horizontal mesh wove, with 5 mm. red controls

I have added **RG-333** to separate the recess printed by *hand press* from the recess printed by *rotary press* strips.

***--- recess printed* by rotary press - a single beaver *without foliage* - 405 x 22 mm ---**

RG-335 - 50 cigars, blue, *coarse roulette*, on horizontal mesh wove, with 5 mm. red controls

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3rd BABN Contract (1878-1886)	John McKay records 100,850 *lithographed* “50 Blue Cigars” were delivered.
4th BABN Contract (1886-1892)	John McKay records 546,725 *lithographed,* plus 79,500 *recess printed* by hand Press, and 150,000 *recess printed* by rotary press copies of “50 Blue Cigars” were delivered.
5th BABN Contract (1892-1897)	John McKay records 240,740 *lithographed* and 70,230 *recess printed* by hand press copies of “50 Blue Cigars” were delivered.
5th ABN Supplement (1897-1898)	John McKay records101,955 *lithographed* “50 Blue Cigars” were delivered.

These latter copies had been previously *lithographed* and had remained in stock when BABN lost the printing contract to ABN in 1897. By mutual agreement they were made available to the Department while ABN worked ‘up-to-speed’ with the die preparation and the printing of the “Series of 1897”.

3rd BABN Contract	100,850 lithographed	**000001** to **100850** - **RG-320(L)**
4th BABN Contract	546,725 lithographed	**100851** to **647575** - **RG-322(L)**
4th BABN Contract	79,500 recess (hand press)	**647576** to **727076** - **RG-333**
4th BABN Contract	150,000 recess (rotary press)	**727077** to **877076** - **RG-335**
5th BABN Contract	240,740 lithographed	**877077** to 1-**117816** - **RG-322(L)**
5th BABN Contract	70,230 recess (hand press)	1-**117817** to 1-**188046** - **RG-333**
5th BABN Supplement	101,955 lithographed	1-**188047** to 1-**290000** - **RG-332(L)**
	1,290,000	

The assignment of the catalogue numbers to the control numbers is only an approximation, by guess and by gosh!

--- "Series of 1883" - 50 Cigars - BLUE - 4th BABN Contract (1887-1892) ---

--- *lithographed* on horizontal mesh wove - 402 x 22 mm - with 5 mm red controls ---

--- RG-322(L) - perf 12 - three beavers *with foliage* - scanned at 40% scale ---

★**RG-322(L)** - 50 cigars, blue, perf 12, *lithographed* on horizontal mesh wove, with 5 mm. control **288305**, three beavers *with foliage* - 402 x 22 mm - delivered from Ottawa under the **4th BABN Contract**

288305★	RG-322(L)	50 cigars, blue, perf 12, on horizontal mesh wove

These latter strips were taken from eBay. Thus they possibly are other than they are here recorded.

304520	RG-322(L)	50 cigars, blue, perf 12, on horizontal mesh wove
330964	RG-322(L)	50 cigars, blue, perf 12, on horizontal mesh wove
397763	RG-322(L)	50 cigars, blue, perf 12, on horizontal mesh wove
431768	RG-322(L)	50 cigars, blue, perf 12, on horizontal mesh wove
707103	RG-322(L)	50 cigars, blue, perf 12, on horizontal mesh wove

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--- RG-321(L) - perf 12 - a single beaver *without foliage* - scanned at 40% scale ---

★**RG-321(L)** - 50 cigars, blue, *coarse roulette*, lithographed on vertical mesh wove, with 5 mm. control **033021**, a single beaver *without foliage* - 402 x 22 mm - stamped **CANCELLED** in 3 mm. Gothic letters

★**033021**	RG-322(L) CP	50 cigars, blue, coarse roulette, recess printed on vertical mesh wove

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★**RG-322(L)n** - 50 cigars, blue, perf 12, *lithographed* on horizontal mesh wove, *without* control numbering, three beavers *with foliage* - 405 x 22 mm - probably from the 3rd BABN Contract - ***two copies***

The stamps and strips using 4 mm. ***violet*** Gothic control numbers are not a part of the regular control number sequence. They were prepared for a Philatelic Exhibition in mid-1880.

G-221a - 50 cigars, blue, perforated 12, *lith* al mesh wove, three beavers *with foliage*,

★**RG-322(L) SP** - 50 cigars, blue, perf 12, on horizontal mesh wove, three beavers *with foliage*, with 4 mm violet Gothic control **5 2 7 1 4** - 405 x 22 mm - scanned at 40% and 100% scale

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--- "Series of 1883" - 50 Cigars - BLUE - 402 x 22 mm. - 4th BABN Contract (1887-1892) ---

--- recess printed by hand press - a single beaver *without foliage* - <u>5 mm</u> red controls ---

--- RG-333 - *coarse roulette* - scanned at 40% scale ---

★**RG-333** - 50 cigars, blue, coarse roulette, on vertical mesh wove, with 5 mm. control **567045**,
a single beaver *without foliage* - probably from the 4th BABN Contract - missing the left end

★**RG-333** - 50 cigars, blue, *coarse roulette*, on vertical mesh wove, with 5 mm. control 1-**070554**,
a single beaver *without foliage* - 402 x 22 mm - from the 4th BABN Contract

567045 ★	RG-333	50 cigars, blue, coarse roulette, on vertical mesh wove, missing the left end
1-**018927**★	RG-333	50 cigars, blue, coarse roulette, on vertical mesh wove, on a 7¾" x 4⅜" x 2⅛" wooden box of **El Ecuador** cigars the box is roller coded **CUSTOMS, CIGARS, VICTORIA B.C.**
1-**070554**★	RG-333	50 cigars, blue, coarse roulette, on vertical mesh wove
1-**070558**	RG-333 CP	50 cigars, blue, coarse roulette, on vertical mesh wove

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--- RG-335 - *recess printed* by <u>rotary press</u> - a single beaver *without foliage* - 405? x 22 mm ---

It seems to me that the rotary press *recess printed* strips are customarily found on horizontal mesh wove paper; while the *lithographed* and the hand press *recess printed* strips are found on vertical mesh wove.

★**RG-335** - 50 cigars, blue, *coarse roulette*, on horizontal mesh wove, with 5 mm. control 1-**24??88**,
a single beaver *without foliage* - a broken stamp. It is missing several central control numbers

1-**24??88**★	RG-335	50 cigars, blue, coarse roulette, on horizontal mesh wove,

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File path is [c:\ CR - STAMPS \ RG_STAMPS \ 1883 \ Blue \ 50 cigars],
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